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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Commodities
Committee on Tungsten
Twenty-second session
Geneva, 10 December 1990
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Discussions of the Sessional Working Group:

   (a) Examination of statistics provided by the secretariat

   (b) Review of the current market situation and outlook

4. Consideration of the report of the Sessional Working Group

5. Review of the discussions, proposals and work to date on the question of stabilizing the tungsten market with a view to determining appropriate courses of action to enable the governments of producing and consuming countries to be in a position to reach agreement on measures to stabilize the tungsten market and to arrive at an early decision on the convening of a negotiating conference.

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Tungsten to the Committee on Commodities.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

It is proposed that, following its usual practice, the Committee should elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. It is recalled in this connection that the twenty-first session was chaired by the representative of a tungsten-consuming country while the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur at that session was the representative of a tungsten-producing country.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda in section I above is the same as the agenda adopted by the Committee for its twenty-first session.

Item 3: Discussions of the Sessional Working Group

(a) Examination of statistics provided by the secretariat

(b) Review of the current market situation and outlook

The first meeting of the Sessional Working Group will be opened by the Chairman of the Committee in the afternoon of the first day of the session and the Group will work for a maximum of two days as provided for in its terms of reference and operating procedures.[1/] In order to benefit from their knowledge and experience on the topics of the Sessional Working Group's discussions, Committee members are recommended to include industry representatives in their delegations. Further suggestions concerning the organization of the work of the Group are annexed hereto.

Item 4: Consideration of the report of the Sessional Working Group by the Committee

As provided for in its terms of reference, the Sessional Working Group will submit its report to the Committee on Tungsten for consideration.

Item 5: Review of the discussions, proposals and work to date on the question of stabilizing the tungsten market with a view to determining appropriate courses of action to enable the governments of producing and consuming countries to be in a position to reach agreement on measures to stabilize the tungsten market and to arrive at an early decision on the convening of a negotiating conference

At its twenty-first session, under this item the Committee agreed that the secretariat should proceed with its review of existing research and development programmes to promote new applications for tungsten and a survey of industry and government views on the need for additional programmes. The Committee will have before it a report by the UNCTAD secretariat on this subject (TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/86). As the Committee may wish to discuss possible follow-up action, some suggestions are made in this respect in chapter V of the report.

1/ See Report of the Committee on Tungsten on its sixteenth session (TD/B/C.1/268 - TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/55, annex).

Item 6: Other business

(a) At its twenty-first session, the Committee requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to approach the Common Fund informally in order to seek its view on the eligibility of the Committee as an international commodity body. The secretariat will inform the Committee of any response that may have been received to the Secretary-General's approach to the Fund.

(b) Taking into account the discussions during the session, the Committee may wish to consider the provisional agenda for its next session.

READEX

ANNEX

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN

1. Opening of the Sessional Working Group

The Sessional Working Group will commence its work in the afternoon of the first day of the session and will meet for a maximum of two days. As provided for in the terms of reference and operating procedures of the Sessional Working Group, the officers of the Working Group will be the officers of the current session of the Committee on Tungsten.

It is recommended that Committee members include industry representatives in their delegations for the discussions of the Sessional Working Group so that the Group may benefit from their knowledge of the market and of technical issues.

2. Examination of statistics provided by the secretariat (Agenda item 3(a))

The statistics provided by the secretariat in statistical summaries have been compiled from various sources, including replies from Governments to the secretariat's quarterly questionnaire, national publications and trade journals; they also contain estimates made by the secretariat. It would be particularly useful for greater transparency if comments were made on the secretariat's estimates of production, consumption and trade, about which there is little published information. The Sessional Working Group is expected to examine and, through its deliberations, to amplify and improve the available statistics. The examination of the statistics would be facilitated if information from Governments could be made available to the secretariat no later than the first day of the session.

Under this sub-item, the secretariat will also introduce a note containing a list of different definitions and methodologies used in major tungsten-producing countries, (TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/85).

3. Review of the current market situation and outlook (Agenda item 3(b))

In order to facilitate the assessment of the current market situation and the short-term market outlook and to enable the Sessional Working Group to prepare its report, it is proposed that the review should proceed as follows:

(a) Examination of the report prepared by the secretariat on the current world market situation and outlook for tungsten (TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/84);

(b) Presentation of national statements by Governments to review the current situation and outlook in national markets, as well as the global market as desirable;

(c) Contributions by industry advisers to cover the global or national market situation and outlook or both, and aspects influencing trends and developments in the tungsten market;

(d) Preparation of an assessment of the current situation and outlook for the international tungsten market, which will be included in the report of the Sessional Working Group for consideration by the Committee.

In accordance with its terms of reference, the task of the Sessional Working Group is to review, examine and provide information on trends and developments in the market in respect of production, consumption, trade, stocks and other key factors, such as structural and technological change, both short-term and long-term, influencing these trends and developments. The aim is principally to enable the Group to prepare an assessment of the current situation and outlook for the international tungsten market, analysing all factors relevant to the market and including as much statistical detail as possible.

4. Other matters

In this regard, arrangements are being made for possible presentations on specific aspects related to tungsten.

5. Adoption of the report of the Sessional Working Group

In accordance with paragraph 5 of its terms of reference, the Sessional Working Group will submit its report to the Committee on Tungsten for consideration.